

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman:

Tsunetaro Miyakoda

Editors:

Kaname Tsukahara

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## 14TH WORLD CONVENTION ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NOTES

The Preparatory Committee for the 14th World Convention on Christian Education held a meeting on January 18 to hear a report from Hon. Tokutaro Kitamura, who recently returned from New York. The next preparatory major steps are to send out invitations to sixty-two countries and to organize the Supporters Association, which will be composed of leaders in the political and economic world. When the Eighth World Sunday School Convention was held in Tokyo in 1920 Count Shigenobu Okuma acted as Chairman and three eminent leaders, Baron Yoshiro Sakatani, Vicount Eiichi Shibusawa, and Hon. Yonejiro Tajiri were Vice Chairmen of the Sponsors Association. In connection with the forthcoming convention Hon. Keizo Shibusawa, grandson of Viscount Shibusawa, has agreed to act as chairman. On January 24 twenty leaders met at the Marunouchi Hotel in Tokyo to organize the Sponsors Association and lay plans for raising 37.5 million yen. The motto for the convention, is to be, "Christ is the Truth."







## JAPAN HARVEST WINTER 1957 ISSUE

The Winter Issue of Japan Harvest, official organ of the Evangelical Missionary Association of Japan, an organization of generally theologically conservative missionaries, is just off the press and, as usual, has a number of feature articles which will be of interest to all persons concerned with the Christian movement in Japan. Among those of special interest are "Radio Review 1956-57" by Arthur Seeley, Director of the Pacific Broadcasting Association, "Lutherans in Japan" by Dr. Sigurd Aske of the Free Church of Norway Japan Mission, "Japan's New Religions" by William P. Woodard, and a symposium on "Nationalism-Blessing or Blight". Among the shorter articles of special value to missionaries are "Pump-Priming Pauperizing?" by J. A. McAlpine of the Southern Presbyterian Mission, and "Why Misunderstanding?" by Rev. and Mrs. P. T. Luke of the Japan Evangelistic Band. This last article should be compulsory reading for all new missionaries, and some not so new. In view of the generally high quality of the material it is unfortunate that the issue is marred by any inaccuracies. For example, "A Late News Bulletin" (page 43) states that "15 Kyodan ministers are definitely preparing to go to Communist China this spring." As a matter of fact, at the time of publication it was unknown who would accept the invitation and there was never any intention or expectation that only ministers of the United Church would go. Those going will represent the entire Christian Movement fairly well but will go as individuals and not as official delegates. Furthermore, the item mistakenly implies that Dr. Darley Downs, who actually has no direct relationship with the matter, is one of those responsible for promoting the proposed delegation and that he is acting as "advisor" to a Japanese minister who is closely associated with the project.

## NCC COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Committee on International Relations of the National Christian Council met on January 22nd at the Christian Center to discuss the repatriation of ashes of Japanese wardead from New Guinea. Since heretofore the Netherlands Government has refused Japan's request, the committee decided to appeal to the churches of the Netherlands through the World Council of Churches and other Christian organizations. Christians as well as believers in other religions of Japan feel very deeply on this matter and it is hoped that permission for repatriation of the ashes will be granted at an early date.

## BILLY GRAHAM TO BE INVITED

As a result of the joint conference held at the Tokyo YMCA on January 21st, a committee of nine, composed of three each from the National Christian Council, the Evangelical Association, and the Protestant League, is to be formed to draft a budget and make concrete arrangements for inviting Dr. Billy Graham to Japan in 1959 for a Centennial Crusade.







AID FOR VICTIMS OF A-H BOMBS

The Social Work Committee of the United Church of Christ in Japan has approved of a program for aiding atomic bomb victims. In order to promote legislation to aid the victims a special committee on political action composed of the following members was appointed: Motojiro Sugiyama, Vice Chairman of the House of Representatives, Tamotsu Hasegawa of the House of Representatives, Sekiichi Nishimura, Shotaro Iwama, Torizo Kurosawa, Iwao Niwa, Hallam Shorrock and Yoshio Inoue. This committee is to draw up a petition for presentation to the Prime Minister, chairmen of both houses of the Diet, the presidents of the Liberal Democratic and Socialist parties, and the Christian members of the Diet. In addition, an on-the-spot investigation of victims is to be conducted in cooperation with Church World Service early this year; a nation-wide fund-raising campaign for relief of the victims will be conducted in the spring; a special Sunday offering in August will be given to the Council from the Aid of Atomic Victims; assistance will be given to sufferers from nuclear weapons whenever appeals are received from peace organizations or the like; case workers for Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be trained; reports will be submitted to the World Council of Churches and American Churches on the findings regarding atomic bombs in order to secure understanding and cooperation; and cooperation will be extended to the Japan Council for the Abolition of A-H Bombs, an organization which has been closely affiliated with the World Peace Council.

TAPE LIBRARY FOR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

The Committee on Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped of Japan Church World Service met on January 18 and decided to replace the current reading service for the blind with a library of tape recordings which can be loaned to schools and institutions. Publication of English material to publicize the needs of physically handicapped and the establishment of summer camps in the Tokyo and Osaka area for the children of physically handicapped. The budget of the Committee for this current year is ¥ 2,471,000. (\$ 6,864.)

DR. AND MRS. PAUL S. MAYER TO RETIRE

Dr. and Mrs. Paul S. Mayer are leaving Japan on March 15 for the United States after nearly forty eight years of service as missionaries of the Evangelical United Brethren Church. They are scheduled to sail aboard the Arizona Maru of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha Line.







### RICE FOR HOKKAIDO RELIEF

Eight carloads, each carrying ten tons of US rice, are being shipped at an early date to Hokkaido in order to take advantage of the government offer of free rail transportation which will soon expire. This shipment is made possible by 1.2 million yen raised from about three thousand churches and other Christian institutions in Japan for the cost of sea transportation. The goal of one million yen was exceeded on January 21 at which time the fund-raising campaign ended.

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Relief is not limited to farming areas. According to a recent survey the cold wave has also affected certain fishing villages and 7,820 are in dire need.

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In regard to monetary contributions, the sum of ¥ 4,000 (\$110) was received from 400 members of the Akebono Church composed of lepers at the Nagashima Aisei Leprosarium, and two and three hundred yen contributions (60-80¢), were received from numerous small churches.

### JAPAN BIBLE SOCIETY 1957 PLANS

The Japan Bible Society plans to sell 1.2 million Bible and portions in six prefectures during the current year. These are Hokkaido and Akita in the North, Kumamoto and Oita on the island of Kyushu, and Kochi and Tokushima on the island of Shikoku. An additional eight hundred thousand will be sold through YM and YWCAs, churches, and other Christian organizations. Because only about five hundred of some ten thousand book stores in the country handle Bibles, it is planned to make a special effort to increase this number during 1957. The Reverend Miyakoda reports that he plans to attend the World Convention of Bible Societies which meets in Brazil in July this year.

### CANDIDATES FOR OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIPS

Ten overseas scholarships are available for Christian workers who are affiliated with the United Church of Christ in Japan. Those engaged in church work must be ordained or licensed ministers with at least two years experience in pastoral work and have the equivalent of four years of university or specialized school education, be under forty years of age, and be recommended by the principal of their school and chairman of the local district. Educators must be recommended by their principals and the pastors of their churches. Social workers are required to have had actual experience and satisfactory recommendations. Applications are due not later than May 4. Preliminary and final examinations will be held on June 8 and 22 respectively.



